Delay in Oil Refinery Works at Paradeep

294. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil refinery work of Paradeep in Orissa has been stopped due to dispute in sales tax exemption;

(b) whether the dispute came up after Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone; and

(c) what is the capacity of production and the details of total budget of Paradeep oil refinery and by when Government first took the decision to install an oil refinery at Paradeep in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Government approval for setting up of a 9 million metric tonnes per annum capacity refinery at Paradeep was accorded in July, 1998 at an estimated cost of Rs. 8270 crore.

Glaciers Feeding to Rivers

295. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is carrying on experiments in the Himalayan glaciers feeding the Indian rivers by sprinking large quantities of ash over the glacier to increase water flow into the catchment areas of Pakistan;

(b) if so, what are the implications involved in so far as the glaciers feeding of the Indian rivers is concerned; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Media reports indicate that Pakistan is considering such a proposal to artificially generate snow melts from the Himalayan glaciers and